

News Release



For Immediate Release
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WHALE WATCH 2001 **Free Gray Whale Viewing Programs at** **Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park**

- WHAT:** A unique opportunity to view California gray whale mothers and calves just off shore, and to learn about their natural history.
- WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., every Saturday and Sunday during the month of April (April 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29)
- WHERE:** Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park, Pescadero, California, is 25 miles north of Santa Cruz and 22 miles south of Half Moon Bay on U.S. Highway 1. It is approximately a one-hour-and-fifteen-minute-drive south of San Francisco.
- COST:** Free.

California State Parks announces WHALEWATCH 2001 at Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park.

Pigeon Point is one of the prime spots for viewing California gray whales during their northward migration to Alaska from their mating and birthing spots in the lagoons of Baja

California, Mexico. Cows and their calves frequently swim and linger close to shore, offering rare up-close views without the need of binoculars.

Every Saturday and Sunday during the month of April, State Park docents will offer FREE outdoor talks on the natural history of the gray whales, answer questions about their behavior, and point out the best places for viewing these magnificent mammals. Many hands-on exhibits will help visitors better understand how the 30-ton whales feed on minuscule amphipods, and how the whales keep warm in the frigid Pacific waters. Visitors will also learn how young calves can gain up to 70 pounds a day.

Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park, located midway between Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz, also offers weekend tours of the historic 115-foot tall Pigeon Point Lighthouse. State Park docents conduct these 40-minute tours year-round, weather permitting. Tour hours are from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission for lighthouse tours is \$2 for adults and free for children 16 and under. Children must be at least 40 inches tall. Secure footwear is required. Lighthouse tours are conducted on a first-come, first-served basis.

For further information call 650-879-2120.

California State Parks welcomes all visitors. If members of your group have special needs, please contact us in advance to arrange accommodation.

